

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the United States became home to more than 20 million European immigrants who brought with them the rich cultural heritage of their homelands. Northwest Indiana pulsed with the influx of Slavic immigrants who settled along the shores of Lake Michigan, eager to make their impact on the region. Throughout the region, the imprint of the Slovak and Polish cultures remain yet today, and are evident in the names these Hoosiers bear and in the traditions passed down from each generation. The most significant contribution to the area, however, has been the establishment of parish churches.

Early Polish Catholics had to travel to neighboring communities throughout Indiana and Illinois in order to worship. In 1902, with the bishop's approval, Whiting's Poles purchased land and constructed a wooden church on Indianapolis Boulevard. First known as St. Peter, the church was later renamed St. Adalbert to honor the congregation's Polish heritage. This simple structure born out of the devotion to their culture and to their faith became the foundation for new generations of Polish Catholics to discover the bonds that bind them together as a spiritual family.

Over the past 100 years, St. Adalbert has been served by many able leaders who have ensured the congregation's spiritual growth and cultural heritage were not compromised as it evolved structurally with each passing decade. Father Peter Budnik was St. Adalbert's first pastor, who established the parish school. St. Adalbert experienced significant growth under Father John Skrzypinski. As the acting pastor from 1911 to 1922, he expanded the service of St. Adalbert's to include a convent for the sisters of Nazareth, which housed the sisters for sixty years, an addition to the school, and the construction of a new rectory. Later, in 1950, Father Walter Pawlicki supervised the construction of the present church, which was completed in 1953.

The church and its members have remained steadfast in its promise to assist those friends less fortunate than they. The St. Hedwig's Society, a society for women, was founded in 1904. Among their philanthropic causes, they donated their time and energy to the church and the school, as well as to homes for the aged, and assisting relief funds for Polish orphans. In 1942, the Holy Name Society was established and was instrumental in providing morale to members overseas fighting on the battlegrounds in World War II. During the 1930's, the St. Adalbert Choir became associated with the Polish Singers Alliance of America. This choir, which was dedicated to the enrichment of Polish musical culture, was recognized as one of the most active singing groups in the alliance.

Father John Zemelko, the current pastor, has imparted this philosophical mustering to his congregation: "We live in a world that is coming together as a human family. There's no doubt that, if the world exists another 100 years, the human family will become more united than it is today. This of course, will be a reality if, and only if, the Church and other world religions continue to foster a respect and dignity of the culture of life." It is this respect and dignity of the culture of life that has sustained St. Adalbert for the past 100 years. As we ourselves advance into this brave new world heralded by the dawn of the twenty-first century, perhaps we might all reflect upon the

unity of the human family for whom Father Zemelko is so optimistic, and find opportunities to foster respect and dignity for all in our own lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me today in commending the parish family of St. Adalbert as they prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their founding. All past and present parishioners and pastors should be proud of the numerous contributions they have made out of their love and their devotion for their church.

TRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday March 6, 2002 I had the pleasure of spending my day with Patricia Buckley in celebration of International Women's Day on Friday March 8th. International Women's Day is a time to acknowledge achievements of women around the world and come together to appreciate our similarities and differences.

The Community Advocate Mentor Program (CAMP) is a program within the International Women's Democracy Center (IWDC) that was developed in partnership with the Ulster People's College in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It was designed to strengthen the public policy, advocacy and lobbying skills of community-based leaders from Northern Ireland. Over a 5-year period, IWDC and UPC will train 100 women leaders from Northern Ireland how to effectively lobby their government and strengthen civil society.

Ms. Buckley is the mother of three daughters and a volunteer. She is the Vice Chair of the South Armagh (Northern Ireland) Rural Women's Network. The Network was formed to support women's community-based groups in South Armagh. Patricia traveled to the United States for the first time with a group of women from Northern Ireland. Her interest of helping women in rural areas with community development and adult education led to her involvement in the IWDC and CAMP, which sponsored the trip to the United States.

Patricia spent the entire day with my staff and me; traveling from meetings in the morning, committee hearings in the afternoon and receptions in the evening. She was able to get a sense of what a "typical" day is for a Member of Congress and experience the legislative process. Not only did she learn about my daily life, but I was able to take a step into hers as well. The amazing thing I learned from her is that women's issues—as broad as they are—are not unique to any area of the world. Women face the same problems in every community.

It was such an honor and a pleasure to host Patricia Buckley for a day. I am encouraged by her efforts and the efforts of the International Women's Democracy Center. Person to person, woman to woman, I am committed to working towards stronger communities. It is an inspiration when women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and economic differences, are able to come together to celebrate and learn from one another.

AFGHANISTAN'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Afghan Interim Administration for its steadfastness in officially reopening the schools in Afghanistan. On March 23, 2002, nearly 3,000 schools throughout Afghanistan opened their doors. The reopening of the schools began with the delivery of stationery for over 20,000 primary school aged children in addition to teacher kits, blackboards, and textbooks. The materials are essential tools in order to make the learning experience of the children a success. Because of the reopening, more than 1.5 million girls and boys were given hope and the opportunity to pursue their dreams and make a better lives for themselves and their families. This is the first time Afghan girls have legally been allowed to attend school since the Taliban came to power four years ago.

Today, the adult literacy in Afghanistan is forty-six percent for males and a dismal 16 percent for females. Enrollment in primary school is even more disturbing: fifty-three percent for males and just three percent for females. This remarkable event of reopening schools across the nation demonstrates the high priority the Afghan Interim leaders assign to the education of the Afghani people, to reversing these trends, and to the long-term commitment to improving the quality of life for the nation. The dedication to programs which focus on the education and development of Afghan children is essential if the nation is going to move forward and allow its people to make a better life for themselves.

Finally, let me commend UNICEF and the many other organizations providing critical support for the Back-to-School Campaign. Their commitment to working hand in hand with the Afghan Interim Administration has played a pivotal role in the success achieved thus far and will go a long way in ensuring that the children continue to benefit.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF STOVER, MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to the city of Stover, Missouri, which will celebrate its 100th Birthday on November 13, 2003.

Stover, Missouri, was incorporated on November 13, 1903, as Newstover, after being settled by pioneer citizens, including those of the Lutheran, Methodist and Baptist faiths. These settlers came to the area, now known as Stover, because of the establishment of a railroad.

After Stover was established, numerous businesses were started and many have thrived. Fajen Lumber Company was established in 1905, Farmers Bank in the same